



NEWS RELEASE

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Capri Shoes

Santa Ana – Mr. Oscar Navarro purchased a new building to accommodate his growing business with the assistance received from a U. S. Small Business Administration 504 loan back in January 2003. The new location allows for retail sales, the making of custom high end handcrafted shoes, shoe repair and warehousing under one roof in a downtown Fullerton location.

Capri Shoes has grown and added more employees each time it has received SBA financial assistance. The company grew from 7 to 11 employees when it purchased a building of 3,900 sq. ft. in 1998 with an SBA 7(a) loan which Mr. Navarro has paid in full. The company expanded again from 11 to 15 employees when it purchased its current location of 9,300 sq. ft. that includes a 1,500 sq. ft. showroom.

Mr. Navarro has worked in the business since 1980 when he emigrated to the U.S. at 20 years of age from Mexico. For the next five years he worked days and went to night school to earn his High School Diploma in 1985. Following night school, he went on to Fullerton College for four semesters in order to learn more English because as he says you “had to be bilingual to make it here.” In 1992 Mr. Navarro bought the business with a personal loan from the original owner who had started Capri Shoe Repair in 1962. The rest is history and a future that is evolving.

Mr. Navarro diversified into custom handcrafted shoes for Disney. Since 1969 Capri Shoe Repair had done all and continues to do the entire shoe repair for Disneyland. Mr. Navarro is also contacted by independent designers needing shoes for their clientele and in this regard Capri Shoes has made shoes for Hollywood celebrities. Capri Shoes is interested in expanding local retail sales and in designing as well as handcrafting custom shoes to customers’ tastes.

In addition to custom made shoes and shoe repair, Capri Shoes is offering orthotics through a computerized foot analysis system that was just recently introduced. Mr. Navarro is planning to make custom shoes designed only for the orthotics available through Capri Shoes.

Capri Shoes is a member of the local Chamber and is a sponsor for the softball teams that Mr. and Mrs. Navarro's son and two daughters play for. Mr. Navarro oversees the manufacturing side of Capri Shoes while Mrs. Navarro focuses on the record keeping and accounting.

Mr. Navarro will be recognized for his business success on October 30, 2003 at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Garden Grove by the U. S. Small Business Administration as part of the SBA's salute to Minority Enterprise Development.

For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov

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